

What is claimed is:

1. A method of setting up a generic security service, said generic security service being capable of calling an electronic signing service from among a plurality of electronic signing services, comprising:

indicating which types of documents require a signature;

for each type of said documents requiring a signature, indicating if a signature is required for a full document;

for each type of said documents requiring a signature, but not requiring a signature for a full document, indicating which data elements within a respective document require a signature.

2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of: creating a layout of a representation of said data elements requiring signature.

3. A method as in claim 2, wherein said creating step comprises adding text to said layout.

4. A method as in claim 2, further comprising the step of: saving said layout in a database.

5. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of: indicating which of said plurality of electronic signing services is to be called.

6. A method as in claim 4, wherein said indicating step comprises selecting said electronic signing service to be called from a list of said plurality of electronic signing services.

7. A method of facilitating electronic signature of a document residing on a computer accessible through a network by a user at a remote location comprising the steps of:

providing said user with a representation of a document for signature through a browser;

permitting said user to indicate to said computer that said document should be signed; and

if said user indicates that said document should be signed,

saving said signature on said computer as a parameter separate from said document;

providing said signature and said document to another service.

8. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in claim 7, wherein said indication to sign said document comprises said user clicking a button on said browser.

9. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in claim 7, wherein said representation comprises an entirety of said document.

10. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in claim 7, wherein said representation comprises a set of selected data elements of said document.

11. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in claim 10, wherein said representation further comprises text.

12. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in claim 7, wherein said providing said user step further comprises displaying to said user either said entire document itself or a representation of said document that comprises selected data elements of said document based upon a view selection by said user.

13. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in

claim 7, wherein said computer is an electronic marketplace.

14. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in claim 7, wherein said network is an Internet.

15. A method of facilitating electronic signature as in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

 determining if an intended recipient is responsible for providing said representation of said document for signature;

 if said intended recipient is responsible, sending said document to said intended recipient and receiving said electronic representation from said intended recipient.

16. A generic security service tool comprising:

 generic signature software, said generic signature software permitting a tool user to set up a signature framework for various document types;

 signature memory, said signature memory storing said signature framework for various document types;

 wherein said generic signature software presents said tool user with a list of document types that could require

a signature, and permits said tool user to input which of said document types require said signature.

17. A generic security service tool as in claim 16, wherein said generic signature software further permits said tool user to select if said signature is required for a full document or selected data elements for each of said document types, and to select said data elements or to indicate that said selected data elements will be determined by an intended recipient.

18. A generic security service tool as in claim 17, wherein said generic signature software further permits said tool user to set up a layout of a representation of said selected data elements.

19. A generic security service tool as in claim 18, wherein said tool user can add text to said layout.

20. A generic security service tool as in claim 28,
wherein said layout can be stored in said signature memory.

21. A generic security service tool as in claim 17, wherein said generic signature software permits said tool

user to indicate which electronic signature technology is to be utilized from among a plurality of electronic signature technologies.

22. A generic security service tool as in claim 20, wherein said generic signature software permits said tool user to indicate said electronic signature technology to be utilized by presenting said tool user a list of said plurality of electronic signature technologies from which said tool user may select.